Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of the claims is provided in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121:

Claim 1. (currently amended)   A computer implemented method for location-based image sharing, comprising:

defining a sharing rule to be used by a sharing engine executing on a first computing node on a network having a plurality of computing nodes, the sharing rule to specify that specifies one or more recipients with whom an image should be shared based on location-identifying information, the location-identifying information associated with a physical location of subjects and objects captured by the image, wherein the image is associated with image related location-identifying information and stored in a memory store communicatively coupled to the first computing node on the network, and wherein the sharing rule is stored in the memory store; and

determining by a sharing engine executing on the first computing node, the one or more recipients with whom the image should be shared by applying the image related location-identifying information associated with the image to the sharing rule to determine the one or more recipients with whom the image should be shared; and

sending a notification that the image is available to the determined one or more recipients on their respective computing nodes connected to the network.

Claim 2. (currently amended)   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

responsive to the determining, automatically making the image automatically available to the determined one or more recipients.

Claim 3. (currently amended)   The method of claim 2, wherein making the image available comprises:

responsive to the determining by the sharing engine, either (a) automatically sending a an electronic copy of the image to the determined one or more recipients by e-mail, or (b) automatically sending a link to the image on a Web site to the determined one or more recipients.

Claim 4. (Original)   The method of claim 1, further comprising converting the location-identifying information into location data using a location database.

Claim 5. (Previously presented)   The method of claim 1 wherein the location identifying information comprises latitude and longitude coordinates.

Claim 6. (Previously presented)   The method of claim 1 wherein the image is at least one of a digital photo and a digital video.

Claim 7. (Previously presented)   The method of claim 1 wherein the sharing rule specifies at least one of a proximity to the location-identifying information, a set of location-identifying information and a bounding perimeter of location-identifying information.

Claim 8. (Original)   The method of claim 1 wherein the sharing rule comprises a rule that images are only to be shared with the one or more recipients that are on a buddy list.

Claim 9. (currently amended)   A system for location-based image sharing, comprising:

a plurality of computing nodes communicatively connected by a communication network;

a first computing node having a processor communicatively coupled to a memory store;

a sharing rule residing in the memory store, defining one or more recipients with whom an image should be shared based on location-identifying information, the location-identifying information associated with a physical location of subjects and objects captured by the image, and wherein the image is associated with image related location-identifying information; and

a sharing engine executing on the processor to apply the related location-identifying information to the sharing rule to determine the one or more recipients with whom the image should be shared, wherein the sharing engine is configured to send a notification to the one or more recipients with whom the image should be shared, as determined by the sharing engine, the

notification to be sent over the communication network and to be received by the one or more recipients' computing nodes.

Claim 10. (currently amended)   The system of claim 9, further comprising:

a sending unit coupled to the first computing node configured to make the image automatically available to the determined one or more recipients.

Claim 11. (currently amended)   The system of claim 10, wherein the sending unit is adapted to either automatically send a copy of the image to the determined one or more recipients recipients' computing nodes by e-mail or automatically send a link to the image on a Web site to the determined one or more recipients recipients' computing nodes.

Claim 12. (currently amended)   The system of claim 9, wherein the sharing engine is further adapted to convert the location-identifying information into location data using a location database stored in the memory store.

Claim 13. (Previously amended)   The system of claim 9 wherein the location-identifying information comprises latitude and longitude coordinates.

Claim 14. (Previously amended)   The system of claim 9 wherein the image is at least one of a digital photo and a digital video.

Claim 15. (Previously amended)   The system of claim 9 wherein the sharing rule specifies at least one of a proximity to the location-identifying information, a set of location-identifying information and a bounding perimeter of location-identifying information.

Claim 16. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein the sharing rule comprises a rule that images are only to be shared with the one or more recipients that are on a buddy list.

Claims 17-.24. (canceled)

Claim 25. (currently amended)   A computer readable <u>storage</u> medium having computer program code stored <s>therein</s> <u>thereon</u>, the code when executed on a processor to cause the processor to perform a method of sharing an image having <u>related</u> location-identifying information, the method comprising:

determining a recipient of the image based upon the location-identifying information, the location-identifying information associated with a physical location of subjects and objects captured by the image<u>,</u>

<u>wherein the image and related location-identifying information are stored in a memory store communicatively coupled to a first computing node on a network, and wherein the recipient is connected to a second computing node on the network</u>; and

<u>responsive to the determining,</u> making the image available to the recipient <u>at the second computing node</u>.

Claim 26. (currently amended)   The medium of claim 25, wherein making the image available comprises either <u>(a)</u> automatically sending a copy of the image to the determined one or more recipients by e-mail or <u>(b)</u> automatically sending a link to the image on a Web site to the determined one or more recipients.

Claim 27. (Previously amended)   The medium of claim 25, wherein the method further comprises converting the location-identifying information into location data using a location database.

Claim 28. (Previously amended)   The medium of claim 25 wherein the location-identifying information comprises latitude and longitude coordinates.

Claim 29. (Previously amended)   The medium of claim 25 wherein the image is at least one of a digital photo and a digital video.

Claim 30. (Previously amended)   The medium of claim 25 wherein the sharing rule specifies at least one of a proximity to the location-identifying information, a set of location-identifying information and a bounding perimeter of location-identifying information.

Claim 31. (currently amended)   A <u>computer implemented</u> method of sharing an image having <u>related</u> location-identifying information, comprising:

determining a recipient of the image based upon the location-identifying information, the location-identifying information associated with a physical location of the image subject<u>,</u>

<u>wherein the image and related location-identifying information are stored in a memory store communicatively coupled to a first computing node on a network, and wherein the recipient is connected to a second computing node on the network;</u> and

<u>responsive to the determining,</u> making the image available to the recipient<u> at the second computing node</u>.

Claim 32. (currently amended)   The method of claim 31, wherein making the image available comprises at least one of <u>(a)</u> automatically sending ~~a~~ <u>an electronic</u> copy of the image to the recipient by e-mail and <u>(b)</u> automatically sending a link to the image on a Web site to the recipient.

Claim 33. (Previously added)   The method of claim 31, further comprising converting the location-identifying information into location data using a location database.

Claim 34. (Previously added)   The method of claim 31, wherein the location-identifying information comprises latitude and longitude coordinates.

Claim 35. (Previously added)   The method of claim 31, wherein the image is at least one of a digital photo and a digital video.

Claim 36. (Previously added)   The method of claim 31, wherein determining a recipient of the image is performed using at least one of a proximity to the location-identifying

information, a set of location-identifying information and a bounding perimeter of location-identifying information.

Claim 37. (Previously added)   The method of claim 31, wherein making the image available to the recipient comprises making the image available to the recipient only if the recipient is ~~on a buddy list~~ <u>within a pre-determined subset of possible recipients</u>.

Claim 38. (newly added)   A computer readable storage medium having instructions stored thereon, the instructions when executed by a processor of a first computing node on a network, cause the processor to:

receive an image and location-identifying information associated with the image, the location-identifying information also being associated with a physical location of subjects and objects captured by the image;

retrieve a sharing rule from a memory store coupled to the processor, the sharing rule specifying one or more recipients with whom an image may be shared based on associating permitted locations for each possible recipient, wherein the permitted locations are derived from location-identifying information stored in a location database, the location-identifying information associated with each possible recipient;

determine one or more recipients with whom the received image should be shared by applying the sharing rule to the location-identifying information associated with the image; and

sending a notification that the image is available to the determined one or more recipients.

Claim 39. (newly added)   The medium as recited in claim 38, further comprising instructions to:

responsive to the determining, automatically make the image available to the determined one or more recipients.

Claim 40. (newly added)   The medium as recited in claim 39, wherein making the image available comprises instructions to:

responsive to the determining, either (a) automatically sending an electronic copy of the image to the determined one or more recipients by e-mail, or (b) automatically sending a link to the image to the determined one or more recipients, wherein the link enables navigation to the image accessible via a Web site.

Claim 41. (newly added)   The medium as recited in claim 38, further comprising instructions to:

convert the location-identifying information associated with the image into location data using a location database.

Claim 42. (newly added)   The medium as recited in claim 38, wherein the location-identifying information comprises latitude and longitude coordinates.

Claim 43. (newly added)   The medium as recited in claim 38 wherein the image is at least one of a digital photo and a digital video.

Claim 44. (newly added)   The medium as recited in claim 38, wherein the sharing rule specifies at least one of a proximity to the location-identifying information, a set of location-identifying information and a bounding perimeter of location-identifying information.

Claim 45. (newly added)   The medium as recited in claim 38, wherein the sharing rule comprises a rule that images are only to be shared with the one or more recipients that are in a pre-determined subset of possible recipients.